FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The Strobe

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Mara addresses budget crisis

by Thomas Mullings
Correspondent

State colleges and universities have not been immune, as students of Fitchburg State College know, to the severe budget crisis that has been ripping Massachusetts apart.

Dr. Vincent J. Mara, President of Fitchburg State College, said state aid to his college has been chopped from 1988's $18 million to its current $16.5 million dollar budget.

Mara said the two biggest costs are payroll ($15 milllion) and energy ($1.3 million), which gives Fitchburg State $200,000 to work with. Mara called that figure absurd. He said he expects next Fall's budget, without any new taxes, to be slashed down to $15.8 million dollars.

"There's no way you can run this institution every year on $16.5 million, never mind $15.8 million, so we have to have some more dough," Mara said. "The way to get that money in my opinion, no it's not my opinion, it's my firm belief, is through taxation."

He said the taxpayer has to support and provide the money for public higher education. "The citizen has to understand that his contribution in tax money helps the state colleges stay open and benefits that same citizen," stated Mara.

"Without those people, the state loses," Mara said, noting that state colleges like FSC produce nurses and teachers. "Students that come to public colleges in Massachusetts reside, generally, in Massachusetts." Those college graduates work in the state and subsequently pay taxes. "Those people are the ones which keep the state afloat. They are our students."

Since Mara cannot depend on taxes being raised, his major concern is running the college as effectively as he can. "If the taxpayer refuses to pay, then the client will have to pay," Mara said.

"I don't intend to have this institution seem like some rag-a-muffin place. I don't like the idea of telling students that they're going to have to pick up more of the burden but, on the other hand, I'd rather have them pay more money and get a good education than to save them a few hundred bucks."

"It would be worse if I said to them that we couldn't get the money and we had to try to run FSC like we have in the past, but excluding library helpers, the school newspaper, etc.," commented Mara. It is a suggested guess that tuition might increase up to $150 on top of the crisis fee.

According to Mara the only alternative would be to fire employees, but he said that will not happen. He wants the student/teacher ratio to remain the same.

Unlike the University of Massachusetts, which relies more on research, FSC has a strong teaching faculty which Mara feels is the strength of the institution.

A problem state colleges and universities are currently engaged in is a hiring freeze, whereby the position of any school employee who leaves cannot be filled for the remainder of the spring semester. Mara added that,"If somebody quits between now and then, we will take no action until the budget gets settled.

If we can, I will refill the vacancies to the tune of the new budget."

Mara defends the fact that each public college and university student costs the state $6000, while the student pays $1000. Currently, the financial aid office will grant funds only to students in extreme financial need.

However, he says his product is still as good, if not better, than many of the private institutions in Massachusetts.

Mara said the administrators, and senior faculty of FSC must try to resolve and improve the morale of the junior faculty and students. He cited a decrease in admissions as next year's biggest problem.

Mara said the blow to education is a few years away from recovery. "Five years will be just about the time people begin to feel good again."

WXPL: Stepping into the Nineties

by Maria Mewing
Strobe staff

The first Saturday of the Spring semester, WXPL, the Fitchburg State College radio station, hosted their first radio conference entitled "Stepping Stones Into The Nineties."

The conference, which began at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 27, involved attendees to pick and choose panels whose topics interested or pertained to them. In the three blocks of time set aside, six panels were offered. Topics included Networking, planning a Program Guide, Ethics, Breaking into Professional Radio, and the very popular panel on Metal music, which drew in 50 attendees.

People traveling long distances came the night before the conference and stayed with WXPL hosts until Sunday morning.

For WXPL, this event was the culmination of several years of thought and a semester of hard work organized by longtime station member, Cynthia "Fred" Donovan.

When Donovan joined the station in 1984, it had only been FM for about one year. In order to learn more about broadcasting, Donovan and other station members began attending the National Intercollegiate Broadcast System (I.B.S.) conferences.

There WXPLers found the discussions aimed at two spectrums: large stations with large amounts of money, and small stations with a minimal budget. WXPL fell somewhere in between.

Rich Stefanowitz, station manager, 86-87, attempted to gather local mid-size collegiate stations together informally to network and share experiences, but the idea met with little success.

Donovan, who spent a year away from FSC working for an organization in which she coordinated seminars, conferences, and functions, decided she had enough technical knowledge to attempt a more formal, organized effort.

Gathering from the comments made at a wrap-up session, most people were happy with the outcome of Donovan's and WXPL's efforts. Suggestions were made on areas needing improvement.

Station members were ecstatic, including Mark Fields and Mike Baronis, who held the Metal Forum. Not only did they hold the most popular panel but the months of hard work paid off in a very satisfying way.

WXPL advisor, George Bohrer, thought this conference was better organized than some academic ones he had attended. As for WXPL, they are already at work on the next conference.

Administrators react to alcohol policy on campus

by Lisa Amaral
Strobe staff

Since the end of January break, rumors about Fitchburg State College converting into a dry campus have been circulating. Students are shocked, angry and confused as to why FSC is considering abandoning alcohol use on campus, and why students weren't asked their feelings on the matter.

The use of alcohol on campus has increased significantly over the past year. Statistics prove this, as harassment, physical abuse, self-abuse and sexual assault have nearly doubled from fall of 1988 to fall of 1989. A majority of these cases have been alcohol related. As a result, the number of cases brought to Counseling Services has risen. This has to be put to a stop, and students need to recognize the dangers involved when alcohol use turns into alcohol abuse.

Student Affairs Administrators have pulled together a committee called the Alcohol Task Force. This committee was not formed in the hopes of punishing the students, rather, it is an attempt to make students aware of the responsibilities involved with drinking. "It is a supportive educational approach where steps are being taken to talk to students about their behavior as related to alcohol," stated Bobbi Crane, Student Life Coordinator. The Alcohol Task Force wants the students to seek other alternatives to drinking, which in return, will cut back on incidents involving alcohol and its abuse.

The committee held its first four meetings over January break. Their first approach on the matter was to put an end to alcohol use on campus. However, their aim is not to discipline the students, but rather, "put the responsibility on the students," emphasized Crane. With this in mind, they are presently going to concentrate on their second approach, which involves tightening up the judicial codes. This includes changing and updating the alcohol policies on campus.

Resident Assistants and Public Safety will continue to log in alcohol related incidents. If a student is observed drinking on campus, the first offense will result in the student receiving a letter in campus mail informing he or she of a time and date to speak with the chief of Public Safety. If the act was observed in the Residence Halls, the student will then meet with the Resident Director. In the case of a second offense, or if the student fails to show for the official meeting, an educational program with Dr. Lon Vickers, Vice President of Student Affairs, will be mandatory of the student. On a third account, the student will automatically be sent to appear in front of the Judicial Board. However, a student may be ordered to appear in front of the Judicial

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Among men and machines

by Maria Mewing
Strobe staff

Tracy Kidder's observations about engineers behind high tech industry products of the late seventies formed the basis of his campus lecture on January 30, and the book which brought him a Pulitzer prize, "Soul of a New Machine."

Speaking off the cuff but interspersed with anecdotal reading from "Soul of a New Machine," Kidder began an account of the total obsession and exploitation that these engineers were willing to put themselves through in order to work on the cutting edge of their field.

In reading one passage about a 22 year old genius who burned out, the audience learned about the downfall of his private life. This young man did not realize that he would be forsaking his family, friends, and hobbies, when he "signed up" for these projects. The 80 plus hour work week didn't matter as long as he could solve the computer's problem. Ultimately, he did realize the toll but still kept at it until one day he just couldn't do it anymore. They found a note on his terminal which said "I've gone to a topless commune in Vermont. I won't be coming back."

Kidder found it amazing to research the characters of this book. He sat with them almost everyday for a year, and observed how they worked. He talked to the people on the Eagle computer project about their work, how they felt about it, and observed how they interacted. Kidder said, "All this went into the creation of mobil plastic boxes. I find that utterly amazing. I never used one until last year."

He also discovered these engineers to be artists of sorts, never satisfied until they reached perfection.

In an industrial setting, which by nature reduces work to small, routine bits, these people were doing something complicated and interesting even if they

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Administrators react to alcohol policy on campus

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Board at any given time depending on how extreme the circumstances are.

Crane had the opportunity to speak with the License Commission for the city of Fitchburg. They share a concern on the alcohol use and abuse off campus, and are in full cooperation in helping the college. Their worries focus around the multiple keg parties that the students participate in, which are clearly against the law when minors are involved.

"We're trying to get the students to lean away from alcohol, and if they are of age, to drink moderately and responsibly," stated Crane. She commented that keg parties do not provide the entertainment needed, such as food and dancing, to give the students an opportunity to maintain a sociably acceptable level of drinking.

Student leaders and their organizations are being urged to develop alcohol free programs on campus. More comedians, hypnotists, trips, dances, and weekend activities are examples that would provide students with more to do. For Spree Day this semester, the college is contemplating having a fair where each campus organization will represent a booth. This is an attempt for students to become socially involved without the use of alcohol. "We're also asking fraternities and sororities to change their focus, and provide programs for students under 21," stated Crane. "Many who belong are underclassmen, and they shouldn't be drinking anyway."

The leaders of the Student Government Association were concerned for students rights, according to Crane, as she spent a recent leadership weekend with them. Many believed that their human rights are being violated. This is not the intent of the Alcohol Task Force, and to show the students that their opinions matter, various groups, namely SGA, Commuters Board, Residence Life, Inter-Fraternity/Sorority Counsel, and Pub Coordinator have been asked to participate in the committee's meetings for the remainder of the semester.

The alcohol problem on and off campus will continue to grow, if the students refuse to see it as a problem. The truth is, contrary to what many students believe, that they are the ones who can make a difference. The Alcohol Task Force is giving the students a chance to take responsibility for their own actions.

The actions of the students will all depend on whether FSC becomes a dry campus. As it stands, the decision can go either way. "It's a last resort, but if students do not make a change, we're going to have to refocus, and see what changes do have to be made," stated Crane.

The Strobe Staff

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News and Notes

Announcements

Beginners ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics) group will be meeting weekly on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Hammond 312, third floor, sponsored by Counseling Services.

Everyone is invited to "shoot for the top" and for a cure for cystic fibrosis, when the Third Annual Prudential Center Stairclimb comes to Boston on March 4th. For more information call the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at 1-800-362-4440.

The Newman Center Mass schedule for the 1990 Spring Semester is as follows: Mondays-9:00 p.m.-Prayer/Communion Service,Tuesdays-4:30 p.m.-Prayer/Communion Service, Wednesdays-4:30 p.m.-Prayer/Communion Service, Sundays-11:00 a.m.-Mass. There is no Saturday Afternoon Mass.

There will be a Gospel Jubilee on February 17th at 6:30 p.m., in the Kent Hall of the Conlon Music Building.

Multi-Clutural Crafts Fair will be held on February 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the G-Lobby of the Hammond Building. Clothing, jewelry, ceramics, toys, games, records and tapes will be on sale.

The Sixth Annual Heritage Ball will take place on February 23rd at 7:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Hotel in Leominster. Tickets are $16.50.

FAMILY TIES KNOTS OR BOWS, sponsored by Counseling Services, will hold its February 20th meeting in Hammond G-07 from 6:30 - 7:30.

Library Hours for Spring 1990 Semester are as follows:
Regular hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Midnight.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12 NOON - 11:00 p.m.
February 19th, President's Day, Monday 12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

The Fitchburg State Gallery is open to the public free of charge. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Commuters' Board of FSC has availble the following positions open on its committee: Treasurer, Secretary, Rep. of 92, and Rep. of 93. All interested parties please submit a letter of interest toSGA attention Commuters' Board.

Academic Success Center is looking for tutors. We pay from $5.80 - $6.90. Make your own hours. Located on the third floor of the Hammond Building, room 305, 345-2151, ext. 3427.

A support group called "A Chance to Rebuild" aimed for women survivors of sexual assault will be holding meetings on Tuesdays at Counseling Services on the third floor of Campus Center 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The college library recently acquired two retrospectives OCLC CD-ROM Eric Tapes which means that FSCL has total index coverage of Eric documents. B.oth CIJE and RIE from 1966 to the latest quarterly update disk are located in the campus library reference department.

Among men and machines

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were exploiting themselves and being exploited for it. They loved their work.

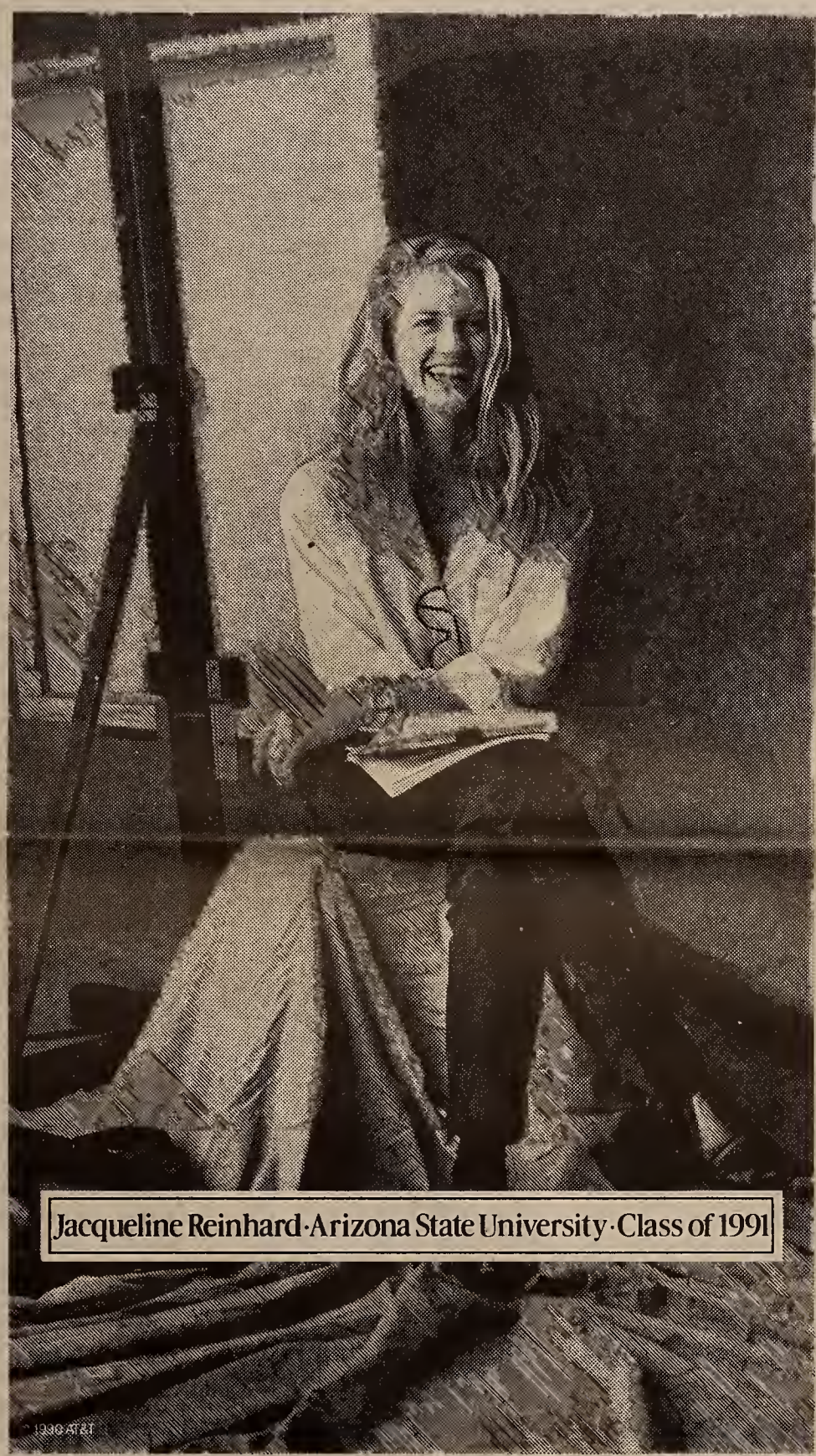
Kidder took the time at the end of his talk to answer questions from the audience. He spoke at length on the subject of whether he preferred, research or writing. He doesn't know, although after completing "Among Schoolchildren," his latest book, he thinks it is research.

He told the audience he rewrote "Schoolchildren" eight times and after rereading "Soul of a New Machine" he would love to rewrite it as well.

Kidder was the first speaker of this semester in continuation on the Visiting Artist and Lecture Series (V.A.L.S.) themed "Preparing for the Twenieth Century."

"Soul of a New Machine" and Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" were required reading for the Freshman Foundation Series this academic year.

"When I call Mom, she either wants to talk art or football. Usually football."



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FEATURES

FSC's cultural views broadened

by Todd Weldon
Contributing Writer

After sixty semester hours and ten days in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, 12 Fitchburg State College students broadened their cultural horizons. Their preconceived view of palm trees, Pina Coladas, and tourist attractions were radically changed by their participation in the native culture.

Dr. Charles Hetzel, an Education professor at FSC ran the trip which went from January 5 to January 14. He also teaches the three credit Caribbean Culture course. Hetzel hopes that the combination of the course and trip will make FSC "more multi-cultural."

Hetzel, who lived in the Virgin Islands for two years, explained, "I discovered that the people who come to interact with the island natives offer more than tourists, because they are involved with the residents." Mr. Glen "Kwabena" Davis, a calypso singer, discussed with the students the roots of African music. The group also befriended a student named Arnold, from the University of the Virgin Islands. "He spent time away from his family during the Three Kings Eve Festival, (similar to Christmas), to give insights of Caribbean culture and share his warm hospitality with strangers," Kitty Swan said of Arnold. Swan, an education major and student teacher hopes to incorporate her knowledge with her social studies class, and anticipates a pen pal exchange.

The FSC students made a generous donation of $354 to an elementary school in St. Thomas that they raised through selling raffle tickets. Swan commented on the impressive manners of the students of the school saying, "not one child went by without saying 'hello'."

Many of the students discovered that their previously believed stereotype was inaccurate. "The trip made me aware of prejudices that I was not conscious of. The people were not the way I would have judged them," said Dorothy Richard, a Communications major. Valerie Hare, an Afro-American senior, revealed, "I felt more welcomed there (Virgin Islands) than in the United States, as there is less racial tension."

Next year the Caribbean Culture course will visit St. Kitts-Nevis. For further information, contact Cathy Canney in the Continuing Education office.

FSC individuals find alternatives

by Christine Leccese
Strobe staff

Have you ever gotten off the elevator at the third floor in the Hammond Building
only to be surprised by a lot of talking and laughing going on to the immediate left? Who are these cheery souls, and why are they always so happy? They are a group of students benefiting from the Alternatives for Individual Development (A.I.D.) program. This program is designed for students who possess the potential and motivation to succeed in college, but have been denied because of cultural, social, educational or economic disadvantages.

The A.I.D. headquarters is located on the third floor of the Hammond Building and looks quite comfortable with soft chairs, a table, and informative pieces of literature on the wall. Perhaps what is most impressive however, is the atmosphere. Everyone seems to be very relaxed and at ease, whether they are looking for help or just hanging around. Currently, this office also houses Minority Affairs, an organization that offers minority students the opportunity to discuss race problems. They are also presently putting on several events for Afro-American History Month. These events include a one-woman play called Spirit, Black and Female, a party in the Pub, lectures, and other activities. A schedule of the events for Afro-American History Month can be picked up at the information desk.

As soon as one finds out what A.I.D. has to offer, it is not surprising that these students are so content. It provides self-advocacy counseling, financial aid counseling, supervised study, tutoring, open door counseling, study skills classes, an intercultural conversation program, and can also refer students to a number of groups. A.I.D. has been helping students since 1974, while Alvin T. Riley, Director of A.I.D. has been guiding since 1987. "The main goal of the program," Riley explained, "is retention. We want to keep the students in college."

Riley also emphasized the importance A.I.D. puts on educating the whole person. The program is not only concerned with the students academics, but with the total state of the person. Two full-time counselors, two graduate students, and Riley help each person individually to be sure that they are pleased with themselves. They deal with a wide range of problems, from a student having conflicts with a professor to a question on a financial aid form.

The students involved sing the praises of the program. Selvin Chambers, Staff Assistant at the A.I.D. office, graduated from FSC under the program. Chambers now says, "I wasn't even going to go to college. Now I'm going to Graduate School in the fall to study counseling." Barbara, a sophomore A.I.D. student , was also very inspiring. "It has helped me academically and socially. Everyone here is always willing to help you solve your problem. They're always behind you," she explained. Marvia, another sophomore in the program, happily told me that the counselors "keep you on the right track."

An incoming student who feels that they will benefit from A.I.D. needs to answer "yes" to question 14 on their college application. They may also be asked to complete an A.I.D. application and personal statement. In a time when it seems as if FSC is wallowing in crises, it is nice to know of something that makes you feel good. A.I.D. is something that can make everyone proud, from the members receiving help, to their counselors knowing they are making a difference.

Herpes: An increasing danger

by Elaine Rae Murphy
Strobe staff

Results of studies show that there is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about Herpes and the Herpes virus. On the one hand popular media has described genital herpes as having devastating effects on people's lives and relationships. On the other hand different people react to a diagnosis of Herpes in different ways. Some studies claim that mass media has exaggerated the pain and discomfort of a Herpes infection saying that symptoms are unpleasant but not overwhelming or life threatening. While this may be so, different people experience different levels of discomfort from a Herpes infection. Some people with Herpes have no symptoms and are totally unaware of having it, others may have severe and uncomfortably painful recurrent episodes.

Herpes is a virus affecting the mucous membranes around the mouth, lips, and genitals. Two types of Herpes virus are: Herpes Simplex causing blisters and sores around the mouth and lips in its active stages and Herpes Genitalia causing blisters and sores in the genital area during active stages. It is during active phases and when blisters and sores are present that people with Herpes Simplex and Herpes Genitalia are definitely contagious. Generally, Herpes Simplex occurs above the waist and Herpes Genitalia occurs below the waist.

Herpes is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact with an infected area of the body especially during sex. This means that if you have active blisters or sores and have intercourse, you can give your partner Genital Herpes. This also means that if you have a cold sore from Herpes Simplex and kiss someone, you can transfer the virus to their mouth and, similarly, if you have a cold sore and have oral sex, you can give your partner Genital Herpes.

Herpes usually occurs first as a primary episode. In men a primary episode of Herpes Genitalia may include genital blisters accompanied by pain, swollen lymph nodes in the groin, fever, headache, and itching in the affected areas and painful urination. In women a primary episode may include blisters or sores on the genitals accompanied by increase in vaginal discharge, itching, pain at the site of the lesions, painful urination, enlarged lymph nodes in the groin, pain with intercourse, fever and body aches.

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The legacy of St. Valentine

by Christine Houle

Have you ever wondered how Valentine's Day got started? Well, no one really knows for sure. It's all based on myths and legends.

One legend is about St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. St. Valentine was a Roman Catholic priest who lived in the third century after Christ, and was concerned with the success of young people.

At this time Emperor Claudius II of the Roman Empire ordered a decree that no one could marry or become engaged. He believed that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars. Valentine secretly married a number of couples. He was arrested, imprisoned, and put to death.

Valentine was especially friendly with the jailor's blind daughter and by a miracle, restored her sight. On the morning of his execution, he is said to have left her a farewell message signed, "from your Valentine."

Valentine was beheaded on February 14. Where he was buried, a pink almond tree near his grave burst into bloom as a symbol of lasting and undying love.

The boys in blue

by Patricia Casey
Strobe staff

Have you noticed a fleet of men dressed in blue and white wandering around the campus lately? They are the members of Sigma Tau Gamma, and they plan on having a big impact on the Fitchburg State College community. Sigma Tau Gamma is the third national fraternity to be instated at FSC. Presently, there are sixteen brothers, but rushing (an introduction to the fraternity for prospective members) for this semester is well under way and they have begun recruiting.

The fraternity itself boasts about many accomplishments. It was one of the first national fraternities to prohibit hazing among its members. They offer scholarships to any brother who obtains a grade point average of 3.25 or better, as well as graduate school fellowships to qualifying students. Each year a leadership conference is held in Missouri for the presidents of each Sigma Tau Gamma chapter, and is free of charge. Regional leadership workshops are held as well, and FSC will be represented at the next one in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma believe that a fraternity can be a positive force in the lives of both its members and the community. Their community service work will include visiting nursing homes, volunteering at shelters for the homeless, and sponsoring youth league sports. Plans for campus activities are under way as well, though the brothers are not ready to disclose them as of yet. Sigma Tau Gamma's main goal is to enrich their lives while helping solve the problems of the college campus. As Jamie Buckley puts "we want to bring the Falcon back to life."

FEATURES

Herpes: An increasing danger

From page 4

Herpes is usually diagnosed by physical exam if a patient has sores. If no sores are present and a patient has had exposure to the Herpes virus, a blood test for Herpes antibodies can be done. A diagnostic problem having to do with Herpes is the fact that some people have no symptoms during a primary episode and so remain undiagnosed. This contributes to the spread of Herpes Genitalia.

Herpes Genitalia does have some complications. People with Herpes Genitalia should be closely monitored during pregnancy.

Active Herpes during delivery of a baby can present serious difficulties for the infant. Research has shown that there is a higher incidence of cervical cancer in women whose blood tests show evidence of Genital Herpes. And, recently, Herpes has been implicated in enhancing the likelihood of AIDS transmission in sexually active people.

Abstinence prevents the spread of Herpes Genitalia. When that is not desirable, condoms and spermicide cream with the ingredient, nonoxyonal9, are effective against Herpes virus. But, prevention is compounded by those who have no symptoms and by the fact that there is some evidence of "shedding virus." This means that some people are contagious not only when they have active sores on the genitals, but in between episodes. This makes for difficult choices regarding unprotected sex and condom and spermicide use.

Currently, there is no cure for Herpes. A prescribed drug, Acyclovir, reduces the duration of the infection when used early during the primary episode of Herpes. Recurrence of Herpes has been related to stress and some studies say that stress management is important in control of recurrence and duration of Herpes symptoms.

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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Sickul to perform at Weston

Sickul sees the light

LuAnn Johnson
Contributing Writer

Tomorrow, Feb. 15, at 1:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium, the college community will have the opportunity to attend, at no cost, a unique artistic production. "Sheaves of Light: Reflections of Indonesia" is a dance creation choreographed and performed by professor Caryl Sickul. The performance is based on the Indonesian culture, and it utilizes music, slides, and visual props from Java and Bali, Indonesia and New Guinea.

Sickul traveled in the South Pacific while on sabbatical in 1988. She studied classical Indonesian dance forms in Bali and gathered music, costumes, and photographs of the culture.

The Indonesian culture is rooted in strong spirituality and appreciation of nature. Religious beliefs are taught through dance in story form. The spirit world, animism, and reincarnation are prominent themes of rituals and ceremonies.

As an artist, Sickul considers her trip as a sort of "pilgrimage" which aided the enhancement of her perspective of the world and cultural art forms. It is Sickul's goal to share her artistic experience of Indonesia and also "to enhance appreciation of nature and tolerance for diverse cultures."

Throughout the five parts of the concert, Sickul incorporates slides, music, costumes, puppets, and masks to convey the sense of mystical spirituality. As the dance commences, rituals are performed. Monkeys and leopards roam the stage, rice fields are tended, shadow puppets dance and evil demons are confronted.

"Sheaves of Light" has been one-and-a-half years in the planning. Due to a low budget, Sickul and her artistic director Doug Sickul, are dependent on the hospitality of FSC for the use of Weston, technical equipment and the flexibility of her students' schedules to bring this concert to the stage.

Though a professional technical crew would have made this production more efficient and less stressful, there are definite advantages to using students on the stage. First of all, it offers the students a hands-on experience of what it takes to set up and run a show. Also, professional crews require great amounts of money, but using student participation helps to keep production costs low so that little or no fee will be passed on to the audience. Sickul feels it is important to make artistic and cultural events available to the public at affordable prices.

"Sheaves of Light" was performed yesterday for the fourth-grade students of McKay who have been studying the Indonesian culture for the past few weeks. The Fitchburg High School theatre students and the Asian bilingual students also attended the concert.

Universal Perspectives breaks ground in progressive music

by Dan McDermott
Strobe Staff

Everyone loves to see a local band find success; Aerosmith, The Cars, Boston, and the list goes on. Another local band, based in Freetown, Massachusetts, could be the next hometown success story. Their name is Universal Perspectives.

What makes Universal Perspectives different? Originality. Universal Perspectives is different because the band uses their progressive rock sound to capture the listener's attention, while at the same time they use their lyrics to deliver intelligent, powerful messages to their audience. Much of today's music revolves around sex and violence. Universal Perspectives, however, chooses to deal with issues of social consciousness as well as issues of personal consequence. Not often do you find a band these days whose lyrics are as innovative as their music.

Universal Perspectives consists of Glen Sylvia on guitar, John Cox on drums, and Marc Couture with keyboards, bass, and lead vocals. Their self-titled debut album is available on cassette or compact disc.

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Strobe photo by Beth Callanan

WXPL's Metal Department hopes for more newcomers

WXPL DJ of the week

by Dan McDermott
Strobe Staff

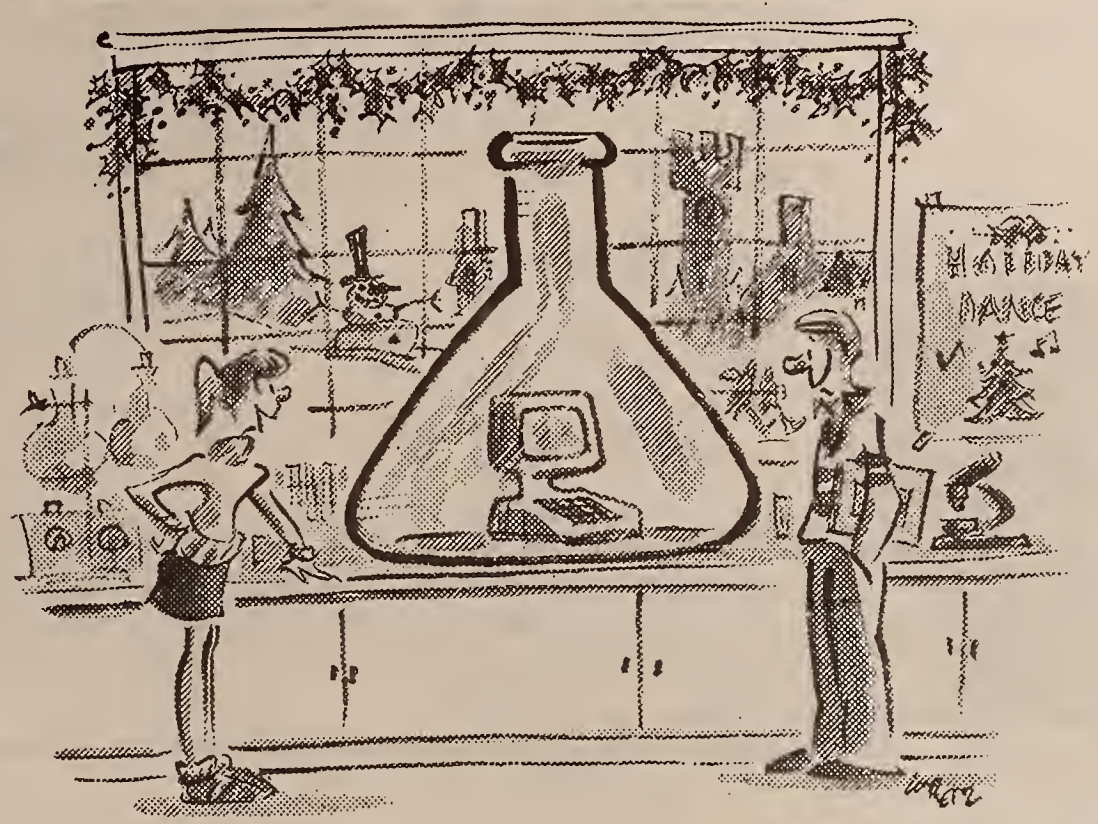
Welcome to the official WXPL DJ of the Week column! Each week, WXPL management chooses an outstanding DJ for a spotlight story in the Strobe.

This week, the DJ's of the week are the members of the Metal Department at WXPL. Co-chairmen, Mike Baronas and Mark Fields have worked hard to brainwash a strong group of quality disc jockeys to bring all forms of metal to the airwaves; everything from hard rock to thrash metal to hardcore metal.

The Metal Department consists of Jim Gugliuzza and Mark Moynihan (Wed. 6-8 p.m.), Dan McDermott (Tues. 6-8 p.m.), Richie "Bile" and Moonbeam (Wed. 10-12 a.m.), Keith Valeri and Steve Strato(Fri. 4-6 p.m.), Mike Freitas (Sat. 2-5 p.m.), and Chris Cook(Fri. 10-12 p.m.). Co-chairmen Mike and Mark have their show every Wednesday from 8 to 10 p.m.

Metal has become an area of strong interest at WXPL. The department membership has grown immensely, as have the number of listeners tuning in to each program. Congratulations to the Metal Department.

"I've finally discovered the formula for taking the late nights out of lab class..."



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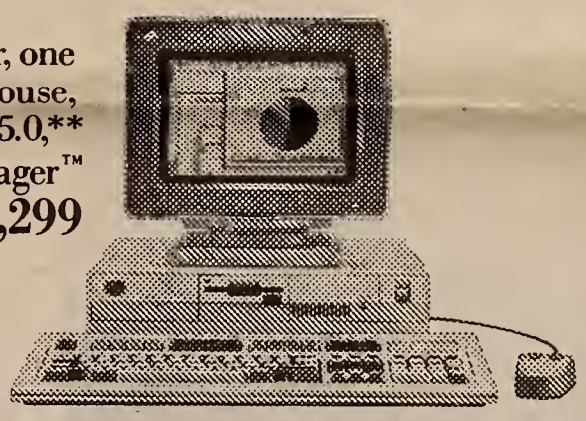

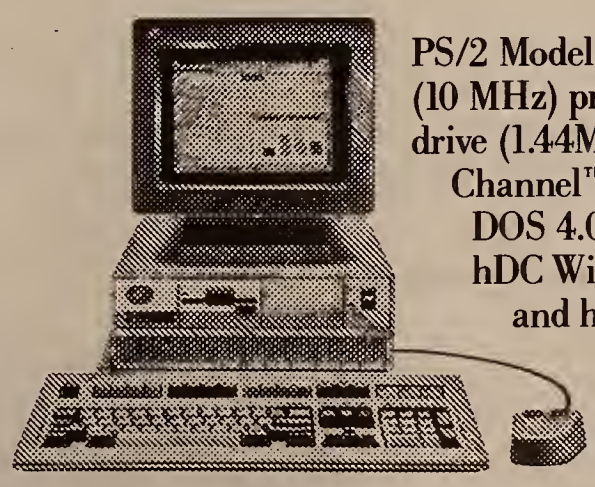

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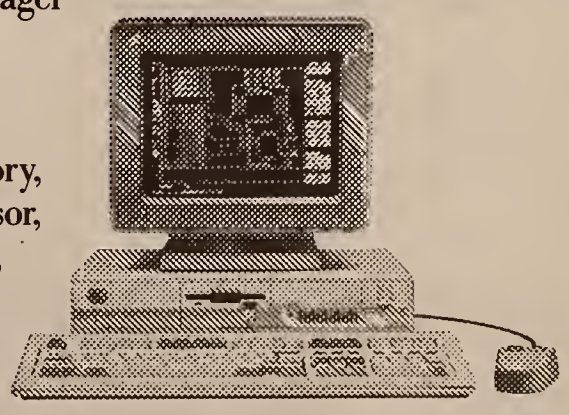

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Question of the Week

Strobe photos by Beth Callanan

How do you feel about the Stuart case, and the allegations made towards Charles Stuart and William Bennett?

I feel Charles Stuart got his due, but I just wish he didn't get to decide his own fate as far as Willie Bennett is concerned I feel bad, but I think he was a victim of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. My number one question about this case regards Matt Stuart.
Tim Maguire

I feel that the case is very controversial one concerning the police, the Mission Hill neighborhood and the full truth will never be known.
Bob McCarthy

As far as the allegation towards Bennett, it was completely justified because he was identified and picked out of a line up. The police did harass him but that doesn't take away from the fact that he was still a prime suspect. They say that they are still investigating but it will probably be forgotten soon.
Andrew Calkins

I believe that Willie Bennett is tied into the case someway. I think the police should have focused their attention on other motives and possible suspects. Charles Stuart should have been checked out sooner. Obviously he wasn't stable. Poor Carol, you think you know someone.
Jennifer Sullivan

Not enough attention seems to have been paid to Matt Stuart. Also I feel that, of course, the police know a lot more than they're letting on. I'm anxious to hear all that is actually known.
Matt Datillo

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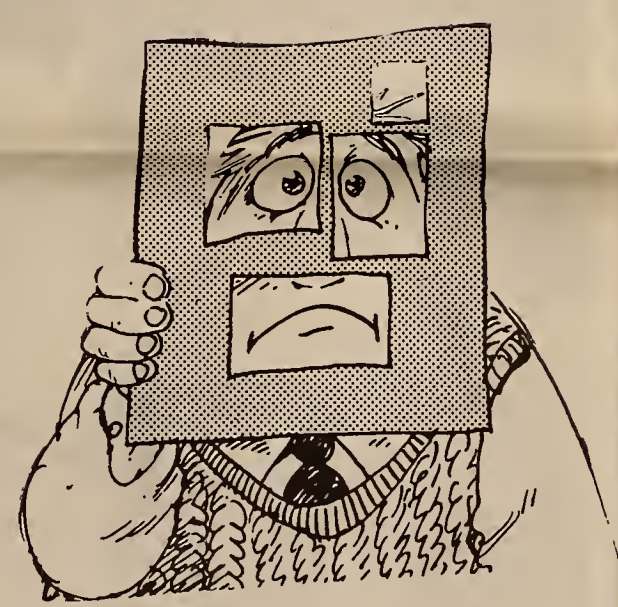

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Strobe photo by Andrea Wallace

Student views the gallery show "After The Revolution."

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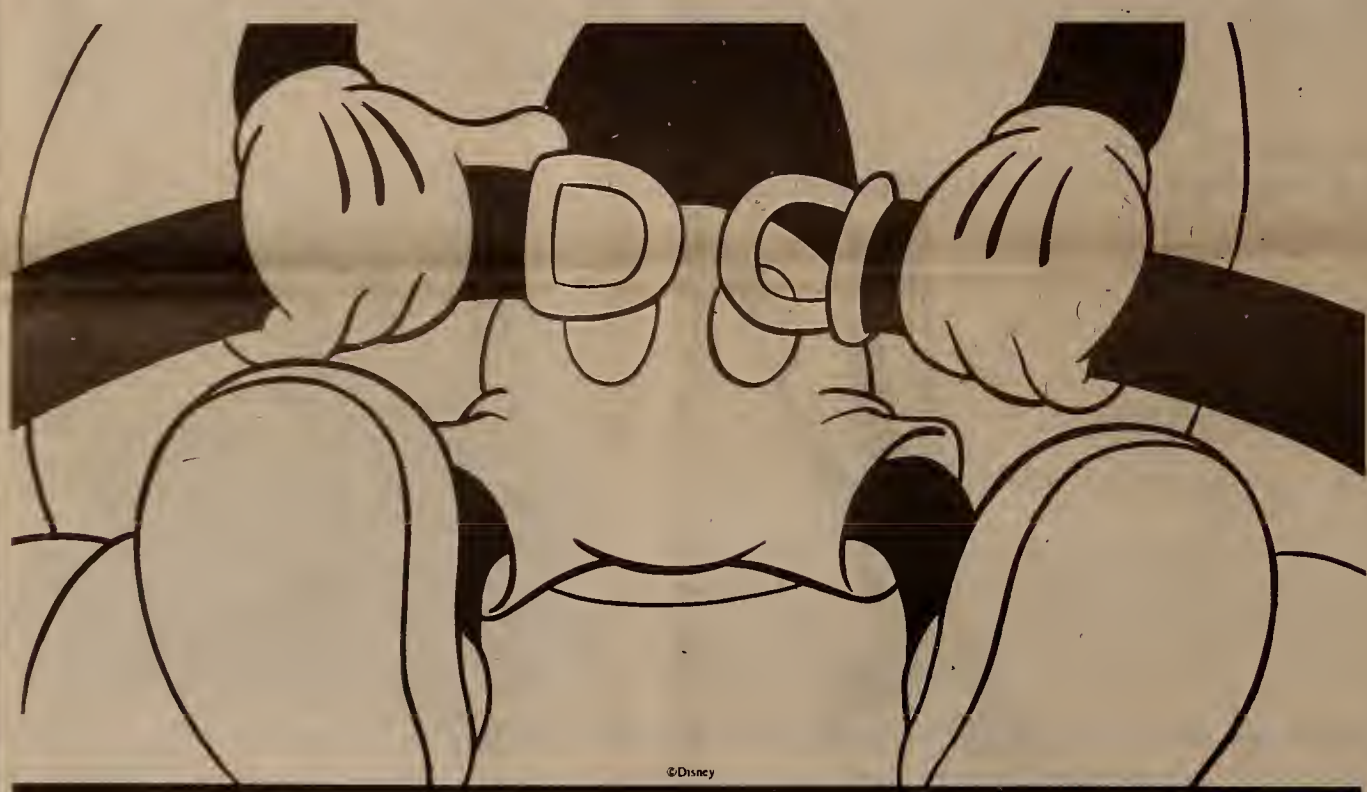

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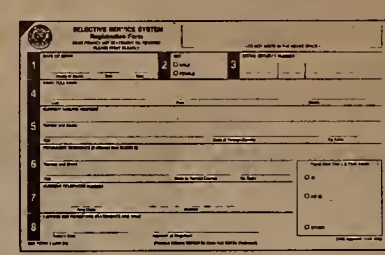

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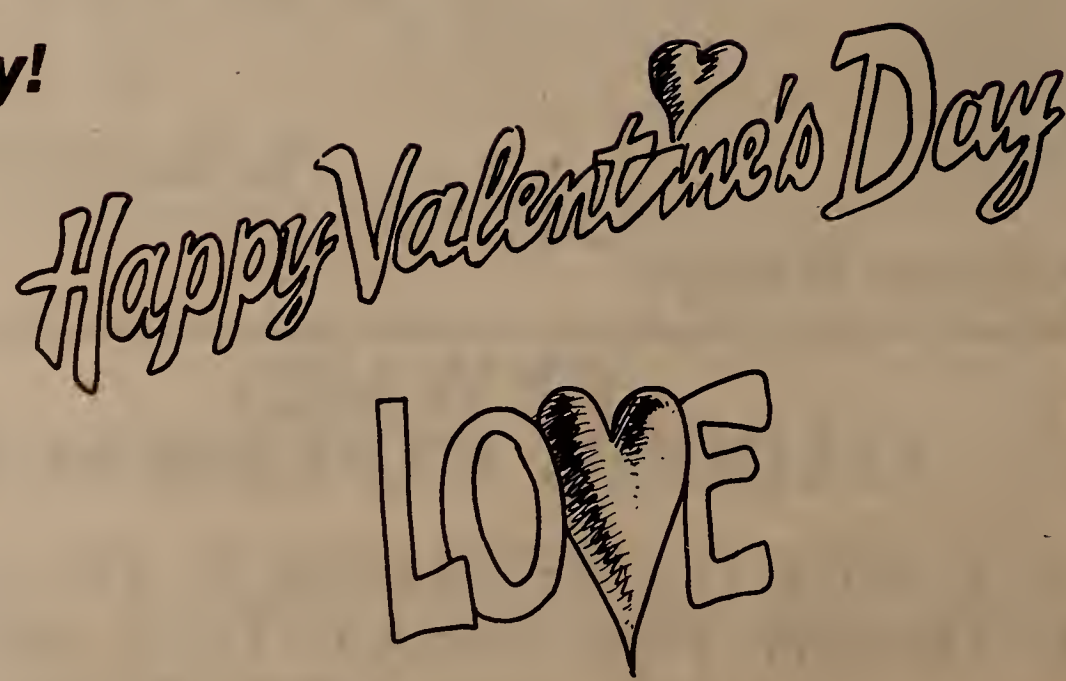

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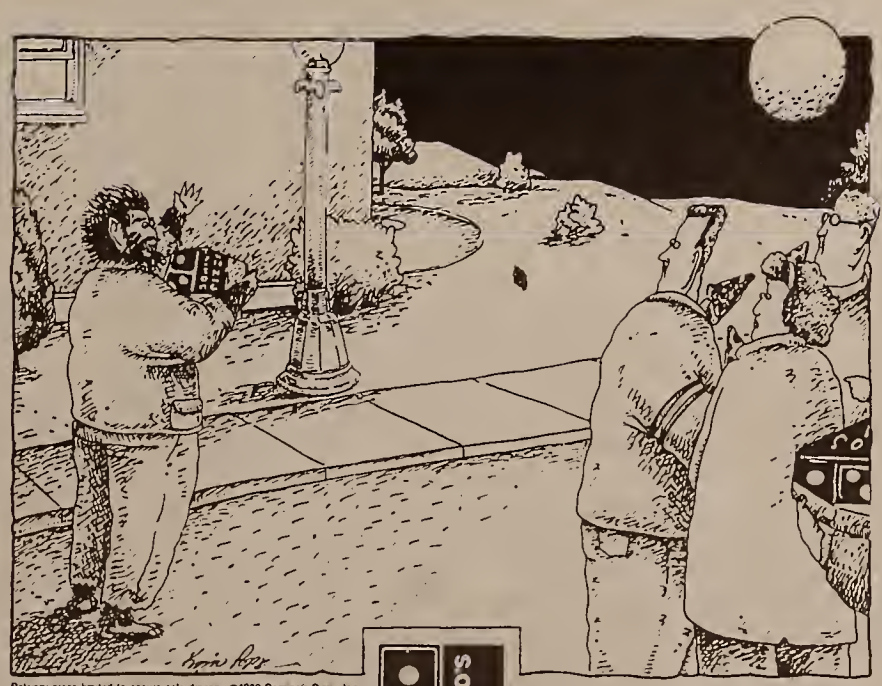

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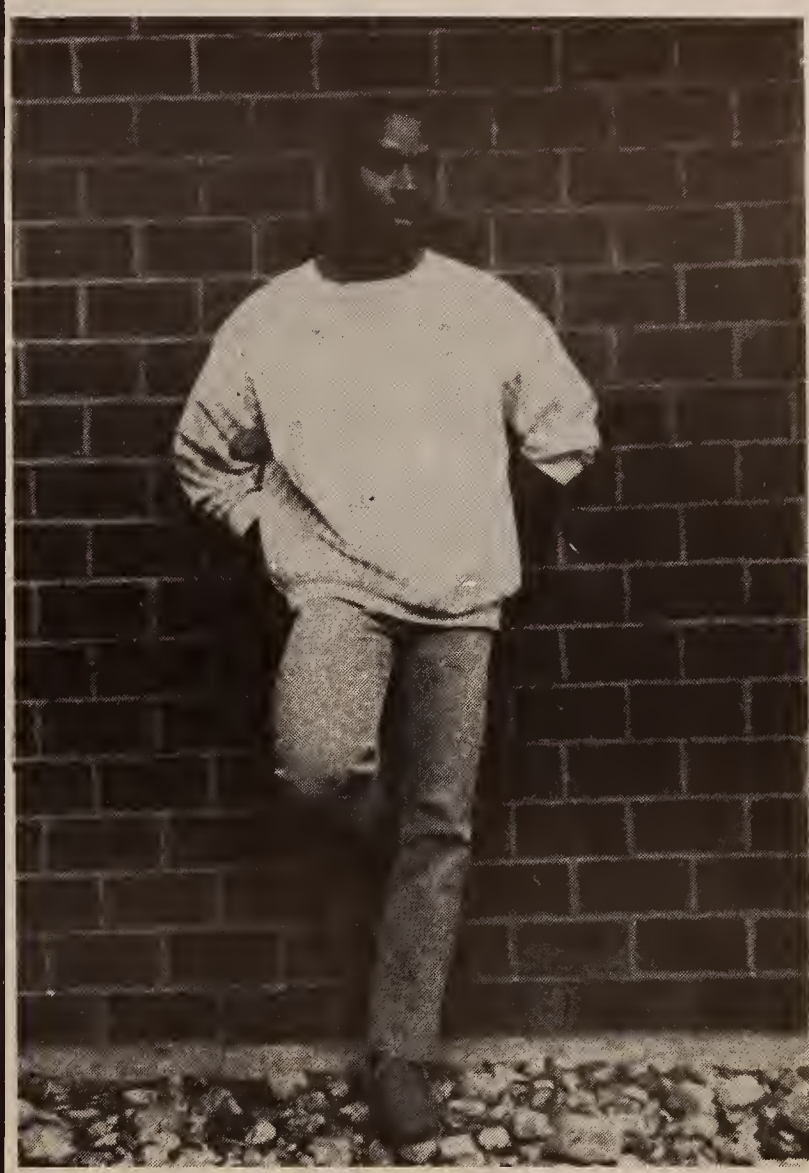
SPORTS



Strobe photo by Beth Callanan

FSC's Willis Todman heads for nationals

FSC's Todman qualifies for nationals

by Jim Sheehan
Contributing writer

Fitchburg State's Willis Todman qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championships by running the 400 meter dash in the time of 49.56 seconds at the Boston University Invitational Track Meet. This is Todman's best indoor time ever in the open 400. Todman has been running well all season in the 55 meter and 200 meter, but is going to concentrate on the 400 for the nationals.

Also competing well this season is Jeff Moda. Moda has qualified for the All-New England Championships in both the dash and the 200 meter. Todman is getting stronger as the season continues. Mike Mooney has qualified for the New England Division III Championships, as has Francisco Hernandez in the distance races, Jim Navin in the High Jump, and Chris Smith is close in the Pole Vault. FSC has upcoming meets with Williams/Springfield/Trinity and Westfield at Williams and Tufts/Colby/ and Brandeis at Tufts.

FSC names McGuirk head baseball coach

From page 8

the school's assistant baseball coach.

He will be leading a team which has struggled over the past couple years, but McGuirk is optimistic about FSC's future. "I am very excited about the job," he said. "I wish it would start tomorrow. Though we may not turn it around immediately, I think we can be very competitive in the near future."

McGuirk brings a solid baseball background to the position. After pitching for a year at Temple University, he moved on to Emerson College where he played three seasons. As a senior he served as captain of the Emerson squad. The past two years the Athol native played in the Boston Park League, then the Inter-City League in Boston.

In addition to his coaching experience at FSC, McGuirk was an assistant at Mount Wachusett Community College for one season. Prior to that stint he coached the Athol High School JV's for a year.

Taking McGuirk's place as assistant coach will be Scott Bolton. Bolton played at FSC for three seasons, finishing his playing career last year when he was a captain. The Lowell native was primarily a first baseman, but also saw action as a catcher.

SPORTS

McGuirk feels at home as new baseball coach

Bruins and Celtics weekly

by David Walsh
Strobe staff
Week of January 29 - February 4

Boston Bruins
Bruins 2 Montreal 1

The Bruins played a great game at the Montreal Forum, gaining their first regular season victory at the Forum since December 13, 1986. Cam Neely (35th goal) and Ray Bourque (14th) provided the goals for Boston.

Montreal 4 Boston 2

The Bruins could not finish off the sweep of the Canadiens by dropping the game at the Boston Garden.

Ray Bourque gave away the puck to Montreal's Shane Corson who flipped it past Andy Moog for the game winner. Cam Neely scored both goals for the Bruins.

New York Ranger 2 Bruins 1

A late goal by Carey Wilson helped the Rangers beat the Bruins at the Garden. Cam Neely scored in his third consecutive game.

Boston 3 Quebec 2

The Bruins finished the week with a split of their games by beating the worst team in the NHL.

Quebec goalie Scott Gordon stopped 49 shots, but it wasn't enough as Dave Christian (10th of the season), John Carter (9th) and Jim Weimer (3rd) popped in goals. Reggie Lenelin picked up his 200th NHL win.

Minnesota 116 Boston 105

The Timberwolves ended Boston's 14th winning streak against the four expansion clubs. Tony Campbell's 44 points for the Wolves was the big difference in the game.

Boston 121 Sacramento Kings 89

The Celtics ruined Danny Ainge's first game at the Garden since trading him. Rookie Michael Smith had 16 points and eight assists for the Celtics while Jim Paxson added a season high 16 points.

Kevin McHale (21 points) hit two three pointers, only third and fourth of his career.

Boston Celtics
Boston 97 New York Knicks 91

The Celtics defeated the first place Knicks to move to within a half game of first place.

Two excellent offensive rebounds by Robert Parish helped Boston keep the ball in the late going and ice the victory for the Celtics.

Football team has high hopes for next season

by Ed McGill
Strobe staff

The Fitchburg State College Football team, coming off their most productive season to date, is already gearing it up for next season. Newly appointed head coach Vin Keough is the main force behind this push.

"Our last game of this past season we beat Worcester State(10-3), and that was a very significant victory. It left a great feeling with the kids, and they are really looking forward to next season," says Keough.

Keough also emphasizes his desire to bring out this schools' football players who have been passing up playing for FSC. "There are a lot of great athletes here at FSC," explains Keough, "and my main goal is to turn this program into a succesfull one. To do this, we have to get those kids who have had football experience interested in playing for FSC."

Keough seems to be very serious about the upcoming season. He has already scheduled a meeting for February 20th at 4 p.m. (site to be announced), and he is in contact with Golds Gym to start a mandatory spring weight lifting program. "Weight training is very important for every sport," says Keough, "last year we were aerobically matched with every team, but strength wise we were inferior." Keough also hopes that someday FSC will have its own state-of-the-art sports complex which he says will benefit all athletes.

Coach Keough is also bringing in an entirely new coaching staff, all with prior college experience, which he stresses.

"Kids have been coming up to me, and they are already excited and ready to go." says Keough. With this kind of player enthusiasm, and Keough's own committment and strong desire for success, there can be little doubt that he will turn FSC's football program around.

FSC basketball shoots for victory

by David Walsh
Strobe staff

The Fitchburg State College Men's basketball team began the second half of the season on the right track by defeating University of Massachusetts-Boston in a double-overtime thriller 110-104.

Sophomore Nelson Oliver scored 31 points and added six assists, while freshman Jeff Black pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds. The Falcons proceeded to drop their next nine games in a row, including their first six MASCAC games. The games were not without some exciting moments and included two heartbreaking defeats.

FSC dropped a 99-94 decision in overtime to Worcester State. Fitchburg led 87-84 when Jeff Thayer hit a three-pointer to tie the game with no time left in regulation. WSC took control in the overtime to put away a determined Falcons squad. Junior Dana Belair led FSC with 24 points in the game.

Highly ranked Salem State got 31 points from Jim Edgehill to roll to a 100-75 victory over head coach Bob Bonci's squad. FSC hung tough in the first half thanks to sophomore Mike Goodchild's (23 points) hot shooting. Black had 15 points in the losing cause.

For the second consecutive game, FSC ran into a very hot basketball team. The nationally ranked Southeastern Massachusetts University Corsairs whipped FSC 101-75 behind the heroics of Bevin Ingram. Goodchild again led the Falcon's scoring attack with 25 points.

Anna Maria surprised FSC 87-83 in a game which was a lot closer than the score indicated. Goodchild and Black were co-leaders in the scoring department with 19 points a piece. Black also pulled down 14 rebounds in the contest.

The Westfield State game proved to be the biggest disappointment of the season. Westfield's Tom Brincklow tipped a Sean Williams shot at the buzzer to give the Owls a 68-66 victory. Belair scored 22 points for the Falcons in the game.

Framingham State crushed FSC 87-54 in a game that was never close. Goodchild was the leading scorer with 16 points.

Suffolk University entered Parkinson Gymnasium and handed FSC their seventh straight loss 106-92. Ed Cirame scored 23 points and Kevin Noonan added 21 for the victors. Goodchild was again high scorer with 21 points for the Falcons. The game started out on a good note for FSC as they built up an early 11-4 lead. Belair scored five of his 15 points during the run. The Rams fought back to tie the game at 21 a piece with 12:19 left in the half. Noonan had the hot hand in this run with six points including a three-pointer.

The Falcons built a 14 point lead (41-27) with 4:43 left in the half. Suffolk chipped away at the lead and went on a 10-0 run with just over a minute to go. The half ended tied at 49 a piece. The Falcons were never in the game in the second half as the Rams led by as many as 19 points.

Nothing improved for the Falcons as they traveled to North Adams State College to take on the number four ranked team in New England's Division III. Phil Bledsoe sank five three-pointers on his way to 19 points on the evening. As he led Mohawks to a 75-45 demolition of the Falcons. Nelson Oliver led the Falcons with 14 points, while Black had 13 rebounds.

FSC fell behind 11-0 early as Bernard Alexander and Bledsoe had the hot hands. The Falcons got as close as nine points (23-14) on a Belair basket, but North Adams pulled away to lead 33-21 at the half. The second half was a total disaster as North Adams pulled away 62-28 with 8:43 left in the game. Both teams used their reserves for the rest of the game.

Jeff Black's 17 points and 16 rebounds were not enough as FSC dropped a 68-60 decision to Bridgewater State College. Bridgewater, coming off a 96-90 upset of Salem State three nights earlier, held off a spirited Falcons team for the win.

The Falcons finally ended their losing streak at Worcester State and also picked up their first MASCAC victory with an 86-83 decision. Mike Goodchild had a great game with 29 points (12 for 17), Nelson Oliver added 17 points while Black had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Falcons are now 1-6 in the MASCAC and 5-14 overall.

The Falcons take on North Adams State College on Thursday, February 15 and Bridgewater State College on Saturday, February 17. Both games will be played at the Parkinson Gymnasium.

FSC names McGuirk head baseball coach

by David Marsh
Sports Information Director

Fitchburg State College recently named former assistant coach John McGuirk as their new head baseball coach. McGuirk is taking over the position vacated by Dick Ballou, who resigned after five years at the helm.

The new head coach will lead the Falcons after two seasons as

Continued to page 11